RG104 E-1 Box 129 June-Sep 1883

United States Mint, Philadelphia, Penn.,

ENGRAVER'S DEPARTMENT,

July 21st, 1883.

Sir

In answer to the letter of the Hon the Secretary of the Treasury, also a criticism by Charles Schlaer, I would respectfully say that impressions in soft metal of the mountings with the original designs were sent to the department at Washington for inspection by the general Superintendent of the Life Saving Service, which were approved and medals ordered. The work of the jeweller, which is never performed in the Mint was intrusted to a man thoroughly competent to do the same, and is the plan suggested by Mr Schlaer. We have always had in view the wish of the Hon Secretary that the cost of these medals should be about fifty

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dollars, The intrinsic value of medal and rider is $49.83, therefore it was not thought well to expend too much for the work of the jeweller, In regard to the remarks of Mr Schlaar, I think his disappointment in the appearance of the mounting comes from a want of knowledge of manufacturing, his design looks very pretty on paper, but it is not calculated to have much effect when produced in metal, and as you will remember I objected to the design from the first, The method of securing the medal to the attachment is wrong it should be secured as I did those for Army Marksmanship, which gave such satisfaction, and is also done in the design of the English Life saving medal sent by the Hon

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United States Mint, Philadelphia, Penn.,

ENGRAVER'S DEPARTMENT,

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Secretary, and which I now return for your inspection, It is impossible to solder a mounting in a satisfactory manner without destroying the beauty of the medal, as to make a good solder joint the medal would have to be heated to a degree that would destroy all polish of the dies, Second you cannot have a perfect outline to a mounting that requires saw piercing, If Mr Schlaer has any doubt of this point I would call his attention to any monogram that has been saw pierced, Mr Schlaer speaks of casting, he does not seem to understand that the mounting is struck from a die, and not cast and chased, Consequently the work is all of one color, and being bright gold, there are no shadows to display the work of the die.

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United States Mint, Philadelphia, Penn.,
ENGRAVER'S DEPARTMENT,

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His objection to the artistic carrying out of his design I think is groundless, First the design of "face plate" shows no double line as he now describes, The treatment of lions hair is a good fair copy of his drawing, and in regard to lions chin he is most decidedly wrong to say the chin should project more markedly, The teeth as placed are correct, and I beg leave to say I think we are as good judges of these points as Mr Schlaar, In placing the ring behind the teeth the jeweller may have to a trifling extent displaced them, but this is unavoidable, unless the mounting is to be made heavier and more important than the medal,

I have placed the medals and

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United States Mint, Philadelphia, Penn.,

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mountings also Mr Schlaars design in the hand of the jeweller with instructions to follow the design as closely as possible, and if after this they are still unsatisfactory, I shall certainly be at a loss to know in what way to improve them,

Very respectfully
Your obedient servant
Chas. E. Barber
Engraver

Hon A Loudon, Snowden
Superintendent.

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U.S. Mint
Philadelphia
July 21/83

Chas. E. Barber
Engraver

Reply to criticisms on the Attachments to L. S. Medals by Sec'y Folger & Charles Schlaar, designer,

[See A.D.M's Letter of July 18. 1883, No. 767.]

RECEIVED
JUL 27 1883
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NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 129

[Abstract:] Reply to criticism on the Attachments to L.S. Medals by Sec'y. Folger & Charles Schlaar, designer. (See A.D.M.'s letter of July 18, 1883, No. 767.)

United States Mint, Philadelphia, Penn.,
Engraver's Department,
July 21, 1883

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I have placed the medals and mount and mountings also Mr. Schlaar's designs in the hand of the Jeweler with instructions to follow the design as closely as possible, and if after this they are still unsatisfactory, I shall certainly be at a loss to know in what way to improve them.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant
Chas. E. Barber
Engraver

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden
Superintendent.